



# 1 1km Monthly Precipitation and Temperatures Dataset for China 2 from 1952 to 2019 based on a Brand-New and High-Quality

## 3 Baseline Climatology Surface

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## 42 Abstract

43 Long-term climate data and high-quality baseline climatology surface with high resolution are  
 44 essential to multiple fields including climatological, ecological, and environmental sciences. Here,  
 45 we created a brand-new baseline climatology surface (ChinaClim\_baseline) and developed a 1km  
 46 monthly precipitation and temperatures dataset in China during 1952-2019 (ChinaClim\_time-series).  
 47 Thin plate spline (TPS) algorithm in each month with different model formulations by accounting  
 48 for satellite-driven products and climatic research unit (CRU) datasets, was used to generate  
 49 ChinaClim\_baseline and monthly climate anomaly surface. Climatologically aided interpolation  
 50 (CAI) was used to superimpose monthly anomaly surface with ChinaClim\_baseline to generate  
 51 ChinaClim\_time-series. Our results showed that ChinaClim\_baseline exhibited very high  
 52 performance in four climatic regions with the *RMSEs* of precipitation and temperature elements  
 53 estimation being 1.276 ~28.439 mm and 0.310 ~ 2.040 °C, respectively. The correlations among  
 54 ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 and CHELSA were high, but our results also captured clearly  
 55 spatial differences among them. WorldClim2 and CHELSA might overestimated (or underestimated)  
 56 climate events such as warming and drought in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan  
 57 plateau where weather stations were sparse. For ChinaClim\_time-series, precipitation and  
 58 temperature elements had average *RMSEs* between 7.502 mm ~ 52.307 mm, and 0.461 °C ~  
 59 0.939 °C for all months, respectively. Compared with Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts,  $R^2$   
 60 increased by ~ 7 %, *RMSE* and *MAE* decreased by ~ 17 % for precipitation; for temperature elements,  
 61  $R^2$  hardly increased, but *RMSE* and *MAE* decreased by ~50 %. Our results showed  
 62 ChinaClim\_baseline obviously improved the accuracy of time-series climatic elements estimation,  
 63 and the satellite-driven data can greatly improve the accuracy of time-series precipitation estimation,  
 64 but not the accuracy of time-series temperatures estimation. Overall, ChinaClim\_baseline, an  
 65 excellent baseline climatology surface, can be used for obtaining high-quality and long-term climate  
 66 datasets from past to future. In the meantime, ChinaClim\_time-series of 1km spatial resolution  
 67 based on ChinaClim\_baseline, is suitable for investigating the spatial-temporal patterns of climate  
 68 changes and their impacts on eco-environmental systems in China.  
 69 Here, ChinaClim\_baseline is available at 10.5281/zenodo.5900743 (Gong, 2020a),  
 70 ChinaClim\_time-series of precipitation is available at 10.5281/zenodo.5919442 (Gong, 2020b),  
 71 ChinaClim\_time-series of maximum temperature is available at 10.5281/zenodo.5919448 (Gong,  
 72 2020c), ChinaClim\_time-series of minimum temperature is available at 10.5281/zenodo.5919423  
 73 (Gong, 2020d) and ChinaClim\_time-series of average temperature is available at  
 74 10.5281/zenodo.5919450 (Gong, 2020e).

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## 83 1 Introduction

84 Long-term information on climatic conditions with high resolution (1km) is pivotal for  
 85 understanding climate changes and its influences in atmospheric movements, vegetation dynamics,  
 86 soil water content, and other related scientific and application fields (Chaney et al., 2014; Gao et  
 87 al., 2018; Hijmans et al., 2005; Karger et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2016; New et al., 2002; Pfister et al.,  
 88 2020; Wagner and Wolfgang, 2003). However, existing climate datasets often only represent  
 89 climatic variation at spatial resolutions of 0.25~1 degree, such as Climatic Research Unit: CRU  
 90 (Harris et al., 2014), The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (ECWMF) Climatic  
 91 reanalysis: ERA (Sterl et al., 1998), Global Precipitation and temperature: UDEL (Lawrimore et al.,  
 92 2011), The Berkeley Earth Surface Temperatures: BEST (Muller et al., 2013), Global Precipitation  
 93 Climatology Centre: CPCC (Becker et al., 2013). As the studying of climate change and its regional  
 94 responses becomes more and more important, high resolution gridded climate data is urgently  
 95 needed for national and regional scales (Hamann et al., 2015; Hijmans et al., 2005; Karger et al.,  
 96 2017).

97 A large body of works including spatial interpolation methods and statistical downscaling were  
 98 motivated to obtain high resolution gridded climate data. Spatial interpolation methods such as  
 99 Kriging (Li and Shao, 2010; Wu and Li, 2013), Inverse Distance Weighting (Hartkamp et al., 1999)  
 100 and Spline (Boer et al., 2001) were widely applied in estimating climate elements (temperatures,  
 101 precipitation, vapor pressure, solar radiation and wind speed) at arbitrary spatial resolution. Among  
 102 them, thin plate spline (TPS) interpolation was considered to perform well in generating grids of  
 103 climate elements (Boer et al., 2001; Hartkamp et al., 1999; Hijmans et al., 2005; Hutchinson, 1995;  
 104 Fick et al., 2017). Recent studies have shown that climatologically aided interpolation (CAI)  
 105 employing the temporal anomaly (ratio) surface and an accurate baseline climatology surface, is  
 106 well suited for producing more high-quality climate datasets than direct interpolation using original  
 107 weather stations (Abatzoglou et al., 2018; Becker et al., 2013; C. Vega et al., 2017; Karger et al.,  
 108 2017; Mosier et al., 2014; Peng et al., 2019; Willmott and Robeson, 2010). Remarkably, the quality  
 109 of monthly time-series climate surface, generated by CAI method, was highly determined by the  
 110 baseline climatology surface (Gao et al., 2018; Peng et al., 2019). Baseline climatology surface, also  
 111 called 30-Year Normals, described average monthly conditions over the most recent three full  
 112 decades. Fine-scale baseline climatology surface is physically representative and meaningful  
 113 meteorological variable for climatology studies (Marchi et al., 2019; Mosier et al., 2014; Peng et al.,  
 114 2017; Platts et al., 2015). Previous efforts have developed some high-quality baseline climatology  
 115 surfaces with a resolution of 1km, such as WorldClim v1 (Hijmans et al., 2005), WorldClim2 (Fick  
 116 et al., 2017) and CHELSA (Karger et al., 2017) for global land surface, PRISM (Daly et al., 2002;  
 117 Daly et al., 2008) and Daymet (Thornton et al., 1997) for North America. Although these baseline  
 118 climatology surfaces are widely used for basic and applied studies (Belda et al., 2017; Ray et al.,  
 119 2015), a gap between these gridded climate datasets and weather stations was still observed in many  
 120 areas (New et al., 2002; Fick et al., 2017). For example, data quality of WorldClim depends on local  
 121 climate variability, quality and density of observations, and the degree of the fitted spline (Hijmans  
 122 et al., 2005). Unfortunately, currently available high-quality baseline climatology surface with high-  
 123 resolution covering China like WorldClim2 and CHELSA, only a part of weather stations (323 and  
 124 228 stations for WorldClim2 and CHELSA respectively) were employed to generate baseline



125 climatology surface. Weather stations are the most reliable source of the estimation of temperatures  
 126 and precipitation, and thus more weather stations can provide more accurate point measure  
 127 information. Thus, a dataset of 30-year average climate (1981-2010) containing more than 2000  
 128 weather stations from China Meteorological Data Service Center and Central Weather Bureau, can  
 129 be used to create a brand-new baseline climatology surface in China. Notably, CHELSA have not  
 130 considered satellite-driven products, and WorldClim2 did not use directly satellite-driven  
 131 precipitation products but cloud cover datasets as predictor. However, satellite-driven products can  
 132 improve the estimate of climate elements in the regions with less regular distribution of  
 133 meteorological stations (Deblauwe et al., 2016; Jin and Dickinson, 2010; Mildrexler et al., 2011).  
 134 With the development of remote sensing and geographic information technology, satellite-driven  
 135 climate grid become the optimum climate product in measuring climate elements at regional and  
 136 global scales (Huffman et al., 2010; Michaelides et al., 2009; Siuki et al., 2017). The Multisatellite  
 137 Precipitation Analysis monthly 3B43 products (TRMM3B43) have been utilized extensively to  
 138 provide valuable precipitation information in areas with sparse weather stations over the last two  
 139 decades (Biasutti et al., 2012; Huffman et al., 2010; Simpson et al., 1996). Land surface temperature  
 140 (LST) is now available from satellite-borne instruments, which is widely incorporated in estimating  
 141 air temperature (Kilibarda et al., 2014; Yao et al., 2020). Despite TRMM3B43 and LST products  
 142 played huge roles in recent precipitation and temperature measures (Kilibarda et al., 2014; Kolios  
 143 and Kalimeris, 2020; Yao et al., 2020), they are only available after 1997 and 2000 respectively,  
 144 which is not long enough for the long-term ecological and environmental analyses and modeling.  
 145 Therefore, there is an urgently need to combine satellite-driven TRMM3B43 and LST in climate  
 146 interpolation to generate a brand-new and higher-quality baseline climatology surface  
 147 (ChinaClim\_baseline) and further to create a high-quality monthly time series of precipitation and  
 148 temperatures dataset for China (ChinaClim\_time-series) from 1952 to 2019 with CAI method.  
 149 Specifically, the objectives of this work are: (1) to create a brand-new and higher-quality baseline  
 150 climatology surface for China (ChinaClim\_baseline). (2) to generate a 1km monthly temperatures  
 151 and precipitation dataset in China for the period of 1952-2019 (ChinaClim\_time-series).

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## 2 Data

### 2.1 Weather observation stations

Dataset of 30-year average climate (1981-2010) was obtained from two sources, 2438 weather stations from CMD and 25 weather stations from Central Weather Bureau ([www.cwb.gov.tw](http://www.cwb.gov.tw)). Dataset of monthly surface observation values drawn from 613 weather stations for the period of 1952-2019 was collected from the China Meteorological Data Service Center (CMD: <http://cdc.nmic.cn>). Moreover, influenced by the monsoon and Tibetan Plateau, four climate regions (Figure 1: Temperate continental region, Temperate monsoonal region, High cold Tibetan Plateau, and Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region) have experienced various climate changes in both precipitation and temperature (He et al 2018). Weather stations also were divided into four regions to construct model and check the performance of data products in the areas with sparse and dense weather stations.

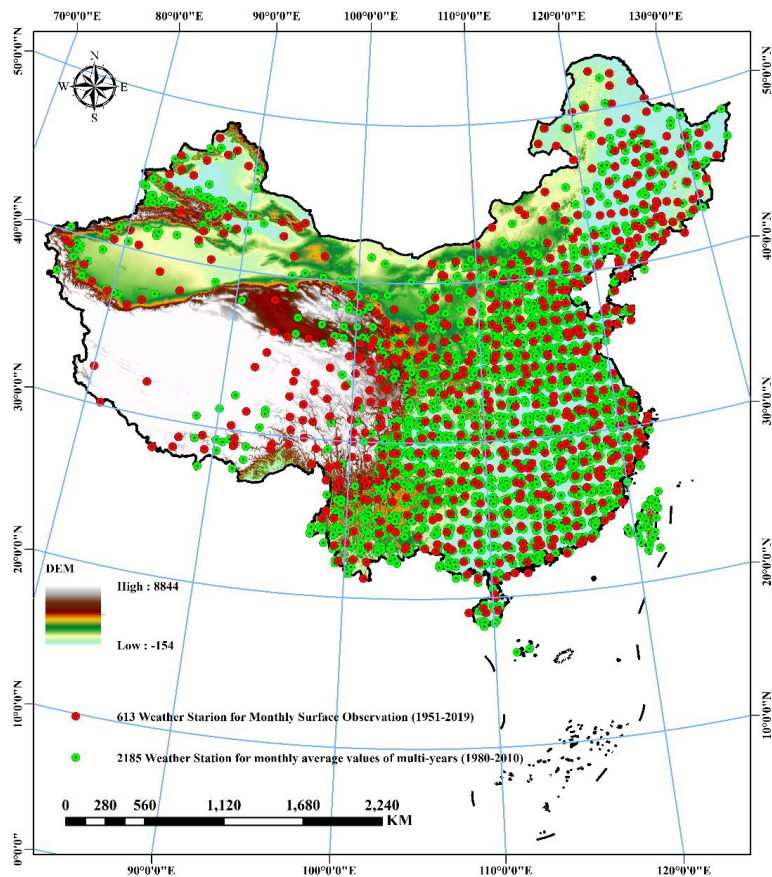


Figure1. The spatial distribution of weather stations in four climatic regions (i.e. Temperate continental region, Temperate monsoonal region, High cold Tibetan plateau, and Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region) of China.



## 177 2.2 Version 7 TRMM3B43 datasets

178 The Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), a joint project by the National Aeronautics and  
 179 Space Administration (NASA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), was launched  
 180 in November 1997 to monitor and investigate tropical and subtropical rain system (Huffman et al.,  
 181 2010; Simpson et al., 1996). Our study used the TRMM3B43 monthly product, with a spatial  
 182 resolution of 0.25 degree over a latitude range from 50°S to 50°N. The Version 7 monthly  
 183 TRMM3B43 in NetCDF format was downloaded from <https://mirador.gsfc.nasa.gov>. Referring to  
 184 the method of Ma et al (2018), monthly and yearly TRMM3B43 (TRMM\_m and TRMM\_y) were  
 185 averaged across years 1998-2019 by downscaled to 1km spatial resolution via cubist algorithm and  
 186 TPS interpolation.

## 187 2.3 Land Surface Temperature

188 Land surface temperature (LST) was compiled from Moderate Resolution Imaging  
 189 Spectroradiometer (MODIS). Mean night and day LST values were extracted from ~1 km resolution  
 190 MOD11A2 images, averaged by month and year from 2001 to 2019. Then, the night LST (lst\_nm  
 191 /lst\_ny) was used as either covariates or independent spline variables for minimum temperature, the  
 192 day LST (lst\_dm/lst\_dy) was used as either covariates or independent spline variables for maximum  
 193 temperature and an average of lst\_dm/lst\_dy and lst\_nm/lst\_ny (lst\_am/ lst\_ay) was used as either  
 194 covariates or independent spline variables for average temperature.

## 195 2.4 Elevation and Distance to the nearest coast

196 Elevation data with a spatial resolution of 90 m from Shuttle Rader Topography Mission (SRTM)  
 197 (data available at <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/>) was aggregated to 1km spatial resolution. Precipitation  
 198 generally increases with elevation (Oke, 1978; Barry and Chorley, 1987), and temperature exhibits  
 199 a predictable decrease with elevation when the atmosphere is well mixed (e.g. Willmott and  
 200 Matsuura, 1995). Coastline dataset was downloaded from <https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov>. Coastal  
 201 effects on temperatures and precipitation are most noticeable because the water temperature is  
 202 significantly different from the adjacent land temperature and ocean often brings warm-humid water  
 203 vapor (Haugen and Brown, 1980; Atkinson and Gajewski, 2002). We calculated the distance to the  
 204 nearest coast using Euclidean distance in ArcGIS 10.2 with the fine coastline datasets.

## 205 2.5 Climatic Research Unit gridded Time Series (CRU TS v. 4.05)

206 Climatic Research Unit gridded Time Series (CRU TS) is a widely used climate dataset on a 0.5°  
 207 ×0.5° grid over all land domains of the world except Antarctica. The new version (CRU TS v4) was  
 208 updated to span 1901–2018 by the inclusion of additional station observations, and it will be updated  
 209 annually. CRU TS v. 4.05 can be accessed online at <https://crudata.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/hrg/>.  
 210 Although the coarse spatial resolution of CRU dataset, it can provide valuable information on the



time-varying characteristics of climatic elements. Here, we calculated the CRU anomaly (ratio) during 1952-2019 and interpolated them to 1km spatial resolution via TPS algorithm as variable for monthly temperatures anomaly (precipitation ratio) estimation.

## 2.6 Baseline climatology surfaces and monthly time-series climatic datasets

Two baseline climatology surfaces as WorldClim2 (Fick et al., 2017) and CHELSA (Karger et al., 2017) with 1km spatial resolution were used to compare the spatial consistency with ChinaClim\_baseline. WorldClim2 was interpolated with ANUSPLIN (Hutchinson, 1995) and represented the period of 1970-2000, a method that fits thin plate splines through station data in three dimensions: latitude, longitude, and elevation. WorldClim2 data sets can be accessed online at [www.worldclim.org](http://www.worldclim.org). CHELSA contains high spatial resolution monthly climatologies of average, maximum, and minimum temperatures and precipitation, representing the period of 1979-2013. CHELSA is essentially a quasi-mechanistical statistical downscaling of the ERA-Interim reanalysis, with the temperature downscaling based on mean lapse rates and elevation, and the precipitation algorithm using geographic predictors including wind fields, exposure, and boundary layer height (Karger et al., 2017). CHELSA is freely available at [www.chelsa-climate.org](http://www.chelsa-climate.org). We also collected two long-term climate datasets with high resolution. One is CHELSAcruts, a delta changes monthly climate dataset for the years 1901-2016 for mean monthly maximum temperatures, mean monthly minimum temperatures, and monthly precipitation sum. Anomalies of the CRU TS v. 4.01 dataset were interpolated between all CRU TS grid cells and are then added (for temperature variables) or multiplied (in case of precipitation) to high resolution climate data from CHELSA V1.2 (Karger et al., 2017). CHELSAcruts is freely available at [www.chelsa-climate.org](http://www.chelsa-climate.org). The other is the recently published Peng's climate surfaces (Peng et al., 2019). This climate dataset was spatially downscaled from 30' CRU time series dataset with the baseline climatology surface of WorldClim using CAI method. This is a 1km dataset of monthly air temperatures at 2m and precipitation for China during the period of 1901-2017. Peng's climate surface can be freely available at [www.zenodo.org](http://www.zenodo.org).





## 247 3 Method

### 248 3.1 Creation of baseline climatology surface over China 249 (ChinaClim\_baseline)

250 The monthly average values of precipitation and temperatures of multi-years (1980-2010) were  
 251 interpolated with the thin plate spline (TPS) from R packages “fields”. Spline models for the  $N$   
 252 observed data values  $z_i$  are fit as the following:

$$253 \quad z_i = f(x_i) + a^T y_i + \lambda \quad (i = 1, \dots, N)$$

254 Where  $f$  is a smooth function of the spline independent variable  $x_i$ ,  $a$  is a vector of linear  
 255 coefficients for the independent covariates  $y_i$ . In this study, we considered longitude, latitude,  
 256 elevation, distance to the nearest coast and satellite-driven variables to create baseline climatology  
 257 surface over China based on TPS model. We listed climate elements and variables used in TPS  
 258 model for estimating ChinaClim\_baseline in Table 1. It is worth noting that longitude, latitude and  
 259 elevation were set as spline independent variables and other variables were used as either  
 260 independent spline variables or linear covariates. Especially, Elevation (m) was divided by 1000  
 261 following scaling recommendations by Hutchinson (1995). Precipitation values were square root  
 262 transformed prior to fitting following recommendations by Hutchinson and Xu (2013). Moreover,  
 263 TRMM3B43 contained a latitude range from 50°S to 50°N, so we constructed TPS model including  
 264 TRMM3B43 in the area south of 50°N. Because the northernmost latitude of China is higher than  
 265 50°N, we constructed TPS models without TRMM3B43 in the area north of 49°N. Obvious  
 266 differences may be appeared in the border area since different model formulas using in two areas.  
 267 Thus, the 1° overlap area ensures that baseline climatology surface of the two areas can be better  
 268 merged by weighting estimates inversely proportional to distance from each region’s border  
 269 (Hijmans et al., 2005; New et al., 2002). Similarly, this method also was used in fusing the  
 270 boundaries of the four different climate regions.

271 Specifically, the process for generating ChinaClim\_baseline based on the tenfold spatially stratified  
 272 cross-validation approach can be described as follows (Figure 2):

273 (1) After removing duplicate and invalid weather stations, the remaining were split into 10 folds in  
 274 each climate region to assure that there was enough training and testing data for each climate region  
 275 to build and verify the model, and thus to avoid spatial autocorrelation.

276 (2) We randomly extracted 9 folds’ weather stations in each climate region and combined them into  
 277 a new training dataset. The remained were combined as testing dataset to valid the accuracy of  
 278 model.

279 (3) 11 model for each month in each climatic region were tried using different combinations of  
 280 variables to construct TPS model (Model formulations about longitude, latitude, elevation, distance  
 281 to the nearest coast and satellite-driven TRMM and LST described in Table S1).

282 (4) The optimal model for each month in each climatic region was used by selecting only the model  
 283 with the lowest average *RMSE* value, then fit full dataset to create final surfaces and merge the  
 284 region of interest via inverse distance weighted method.

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Table 1. Climate elements and variables used in TPS model for creating baseline climatology and anomaly surface. Variables include longitude (x), latitude (y), elevation (z), distance to the nearest coast (coast), averaged monthly CRU precipitation ratio (cru\_r) and temperature anomaly (cru\_a) during 1952-2019, averaged monthly (trmm\_m) and yearly (trmm\_y) TRMM3B43 during 1998-2019, monthly TRMM ratio (trmm\_r), MOD11A2 land surface temperature (the day LST, the night LST, and the average of the day and night LST) during 2001-2019 averaged by month (lst\_dm, lst\_nm, lst\_am) and year (lst\_dy, lst\_ny, lst\_ay), MOD11A2 land surface temperature anomaly during 2001-2019 (lst\_da, lst\_na, lst\_aa), Baseline climatology surface (base\_prep, base\_tavg, base\_tmax, base\_tmin).

Climate elements	Unit	Variables used in TPS models
Precipitation	mm	x, y, z, coast, trmm_m, trmm_y
Minimum temperature	°C	x, y, z, coast, lst_nm, lst_ny
Maximum temperature	°C	x, y, z, coast, lst_dm, lst_dy
Average temperature	°C	x, y, z, coast, lst_am, lst_ay
Precipitation ratio	%	x, y, z, coast, cru_r, trmm_r(1998-2019), base_prep
Minimum temperature anomaly	°C	x, y, z, coast, cru_a, lst_na(2001-2019), base_tmin
Maximum temperature anomaly	°C	x, y, z, coast, cru_a, lst_da(2001-2019), base_tmax
Average temperature anomaly	°C	x, y, z, coast, cru_a, lst_aa(2001-2019), base_tavg

Note: x, y and z were set spline independent variables and other variables were used as either independent spline variables or linear covariates

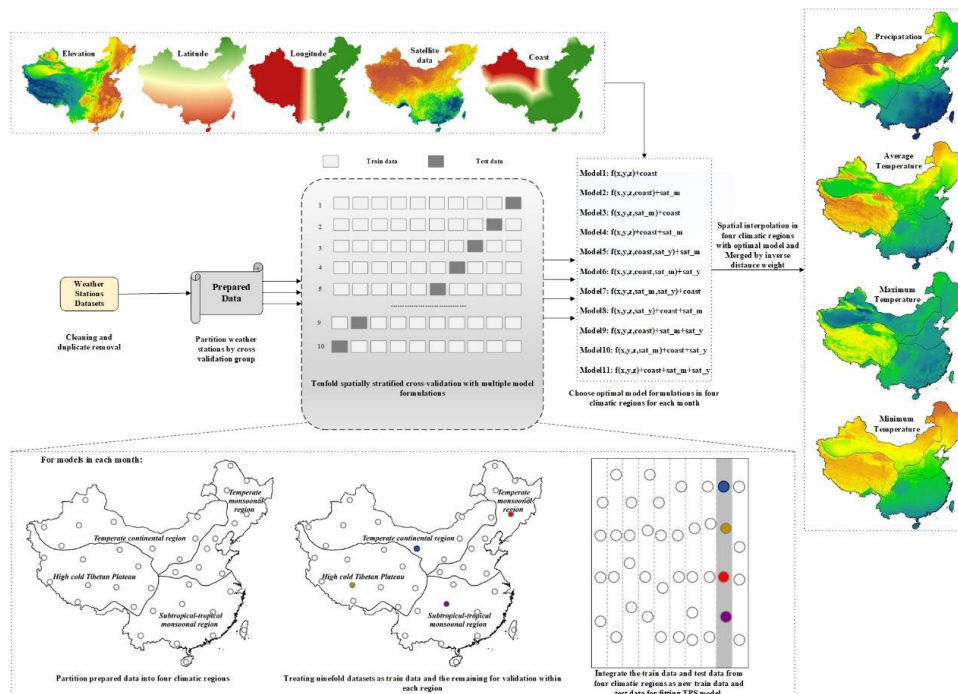


Figure 2. Workflow for baseline climatology surface (ChinaClim\_baseline) for China (adapted from Fick et al., 2017)



## 299 3.2 Generation of monthly precipitation and temperatures surface for China 300 (ChinaClim\_time-series)

301 CAI method was used to superimpose monthly anomaly (ratio) surface and baseline climatology  
 302 surface (ChinaClim\_baseline) to produce monthly precipitation and temperatures surface  
 303 (ChinaClim\_time-series) during 1952-2019 in China as the following.

304 Firstly, the precipitation ratio and temperature anomaly time series were calculated by the ratio and  
 305 the difference between the original time series from weather stations and the 30-Year Normals,  
 306 respectively.

307 Secondly, we applied TPS model to generate monthly precipitation ratio and temperature anomaly  
 308 surface from 1952.01 to 2019.12 with the similar way obtained ChinaClim\_baseline (Figure 2). For  
 309 monthly anomaly (ratio) during 1952-2019, 7 model formulations (Table S6) were constructed by  
 310 using different combinations of variables (Longitude, Latitude, Elevation, Distance to the nearest  
 311 coast, CRU anomaly (ratio) and the 30-Year normals), and the optimal model was chosen via the  
 312 minimum *RMSE* value of multi-year (1952-2019) average to fit precipitation ratio surfaces during  
 313 1952-1997 and temperatures anomaly surfaces during 1952-2000; For the remained period, we also  
 314 constructed two model formulations on the basis of the optimal model (1952-2019). The two models  
 315 added satellite data (satellite-driven TRMM ratio and LST anomaly) as either independent spline  
 316 variables or linear covariates. That is, 3 model formulations (eg: Table S6: model **1** was  
 317  $F(x,y,z,base,coast)+cru\_r$ , model **1a** was  $F(x,y,z,base,coast)+cru\_r+trmm\_r$  and model **1b** was  
 318  $F(x,y,z,base,coast,trmm\_r)+cru\_r$ ) were checked to select the best model during 1998-2019 for  
 319 precipitation and 2001-2019 for temperature elements. Overall, The final anomaly/ratio surfaces  
 320 were created by selecting only the model with the lowest average *RMSE* value in corresponding  
 321 period.

322 Eventually, ChinaClim\_time-series was generated by superimposing anomaly (ratio) time series  
 323 grid and ChinaClim\_baseline from 1952.01 to 2019.12 (Figure 3).

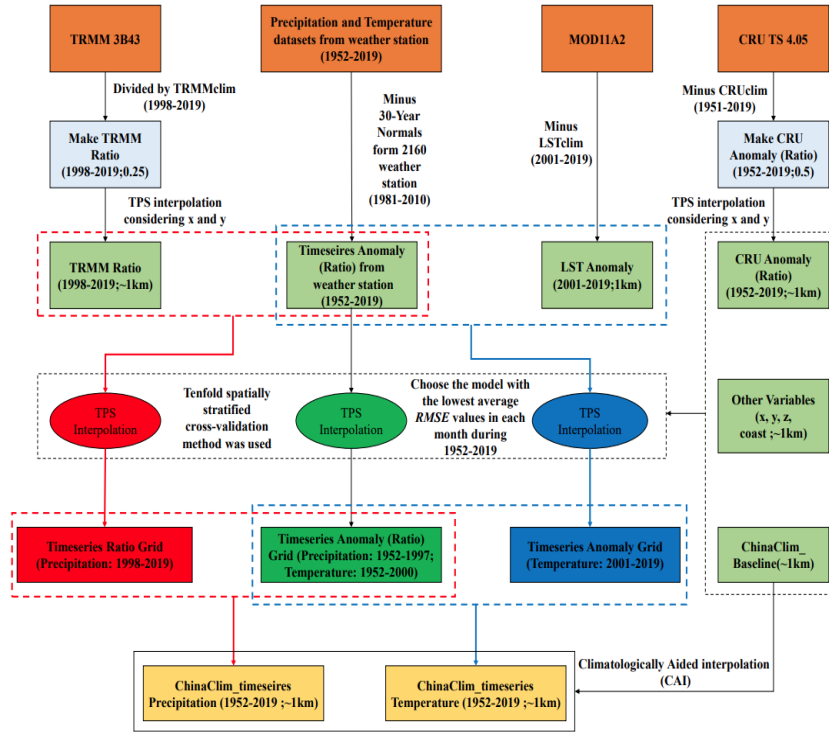


Figure 3. Workflow for ChinaClim\_time-series generation.

### 3.3 Evaluation metrics

Three statistic indices including the root mean square error ( $RMSE$ ), mean absolute error ( $MAE$ ) and coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) are examined to evaluate the performance of ChinaClim\_baseline and ChinaClim\_time-series.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - M_i)^2}{n}}$$

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |P_i - M_i|}{n}$$

$$R^2 = \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (M_i - \bar{M})(P_i - \bar{P})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (M_i - \bar{M})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - \bar{P})^2}} \right)^2$$

Where  $P_i$  is the estimates like ChinaClim\_baseline/ChinaClim\_time-series in the  $i$ th weather station;  $M_i$  is the measured value from the  $i$ th weather station;  $n$  is the number of weather stations;  $\bar{P}$  is the average of the estimates like ChinaClim\_baseline/ChinaClim\_time-series from  $n$  weather stations;  $\bar{M}$  is the average of the measured value from  $n$  weather stations.



## 340 4 Results

### 341 4.1 A brand-new and high-quality baseline climatology surface for China 342 (ChinaClim\_baseline)

#### 343 4.1.1 The optimal model and its overall accuracy

344 For precipitation estimation (Tables S2 - S5), the best model with the lowest RMSE from each  
 345 region in each month employed satellite-driven TRMM3B43 (TRMM\_m or TRMM\_y), which  
 346 implied that TRMM3B43 improved effectively precipitation accuracy. TRMM\_m can improve the  
 347 accuracy of precipitation in all months, while TRMM\_y can only improve the accuracy in some  
 348 months. Regardless of any region, the precipitation error in the summer half year was higher than  
 349 that in the winter half year at month scale. The *RMSE* value of the summer half year was as high as  
 350 28.458mm in the Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region, followed by high cold Tibetan plateau and  
 351 temperate monsoonal region, with *RMSE* of 15.708 and 15.572mm, respectively. However,  
 352 precipitation error in temperate continental region was the lowest, and the highest *RMSE* in summer  
 353 half year was just 8.694mm. Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region, high cold Tibetan plateau and  
 354 temperate monsoonal region, strongly affected by monsoon, have abundant precipitation in the  
 355 summer half year which tended to trigger higher precipitation error.

356 For all temperature elements (Tables S2 - S5), models considering LST were best in most months  
 357 due to a strong correlation of temperature with LST in these months. That is, LST could improve  
 358 the interpolation of temperatures, while the improvement by LST might be limited in some months  
 359 over a specific region. For example, Model 1 ( $F(x,y,z)+coast$ ) in Jul, Sep, Oct, Nov, and Dec were  
 360 the best model for maximum temperature in temperate continental region, and it is the best model  
 361 in 6 months (Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Sep, Oct) for minimum temperature in high cold Tibetan plateau.  
 362 It means that temperature elements have very high correlation with altitude in related months over  
 363 these regions and adding LST as an auxiliary variable is not necessary. As shown from Table.3,  
 364 model accuracy was very high for the temperature elements when selecting the best model from  
 365 each region in each month. Similar to precipitation, regardless of any region, the accuracy of  
 366 temperature estimation in the summer half year was also higher than that of the winter half year,  
 367 that is, compared with the winter half year, our results captured the lower *RMSE* and *MAE* for  
 368 temperature elements in the summer half year. However, the temperature accuracy ranking of each  
 369 temperature element was different over four climatic regions. In Temperate continental region and  
 370 Temperate monsoonal region, the *RMSE* and *MAE* of the maximum temperature were the smallest,  
 371 followed by the average and minimum temperature. In high cold Tibetan plateau and subtropical-  
 372 tropical monsoonal region, the accuracy of the average temperature was the highest, followed by  
 373 the maximum and minimum temperature. Specifically, the accuracy of average temperature in  
 374 subtropical-tropical monsoonal region (an average *RMSE* between 0.369~0.632 °C) was highest but  
 375 close to that of temperate monsoonal region (an average *RMSE* between 0.310~0.732 °C), followed  
 376 by high cold Tibetan plateau (an average *RMSE* between 0.784~1.242 °C) and temperate continental  
 377 region (an average *RMSE* between 0.667~1.519 °C). *RMSE* of the maximum temperature in



temperate monsoonal region had an average *RMSE* between 0.273~0.452 °C, followed by subtropical-tropical monsoonal region (an average *RMSE* between 0.475~0.798 °C), temperate continental region (an average *RMSE* between 0.616~1.081 °C), and high cold Tibetan plateau (an average *RMSE* between 0.990~1.509 °C). For minimum temperature, the accuracy of temperature estimation in subtropical-tropical monsoonal region and temperate monsoonal region was good and had an average *RMSE* of 0.378~0.719 °C and 0.448~1.186 °C, respectively, while the accuracy in high cold Tibetan plateau (an average *RMSE* of 0.893~1.853 °C) and temperate continental region (an average *RMSE* of 0.893~1.853 °C) was relatively poor.

Table 3. Tenfold cross-validation statistics for selected models based on independent weather stations in Temperate continental region

Climate elements	Statistic indices	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precipitation	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.367</b>	<b>1.276</b>	<b>2.316</b>	<b>4.679</b>	<b>6.663</b>	<b>6.759</b>	<b>8.694</b>	<b>7.226</b>	<b>4.873</b>	<b>3.628</b>	<b>2.574</b>	<b>1.603</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.848	0.823	0.779	0.750	0.791	0.894	0.935	0.960	0.941	0.851	0.842	0.893
	<i>MAE</i>	0.754	0.810	1.469	2.507	3.534	4.245	5.703	4.930	3.416	2.256	1.384	0.826
Average temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.519</b>	<b>1.273</b>	<b>0.831</b>	<b>0.667</b>	<b>0.687</b>	<b>0.793</b>	<b>0.837</b>	<b>0.818</b>	<b>0.783</b>	<b>0.788</b>	<b>0.928</b>	<b>1.303</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.862	0.919	0.961	0.963	0.952	0.933	0.925	0.921	0.923	0.914	0.922	0.871
	<i>MAE</i>	1.003	0.842	0.593	0.479	0.470	0.544	0.581	0.572	0.570	0.582	0.690	0.889
Maximum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.081</b>	<b>1.030</b>	<b>0.846</b>	<b>0.616</b>	<b>0.702</b>	<b>0.750</b>	<b>0.802</b>	<b>0.733</b>	<b>0.663</b>	<b>0.607</b>	<b>0.727</b>	<b>0.980</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.936	0.949	0.964	0.974	0.956	0.952	0.942	0.951	0.959	0.964	0.956	0.935
	<i>MAE</i>	0.645	0.614	0.480	0.357	0.406	0.480	0.516	0.474	0.409	0.364	0.467	0.606
Minimum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>2.040</b>	<b>1.815</b>	<b>1.218</b>	<b>1.068</b>	<b>1.033</b>	<b>1.114</b>	<b>1.076</b>	<b>1.136</b>	<b>1.189</b>	<b>1.189</b>	<b>1.331</b>	<b>1.773</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.776	0.845	0.908	0.906	0.900	0.852	0.834	0.834	0.812	0.800	0.820	0.792
	<i>MAE</i>	1.457	1.286	0.916	0.826	0.806	0.854	0.813	0.843	0.914	0.879	1.013	1.285

Table 4. Tenfold cross-validation statistics for selected models based on independent weather stations in High cold Tibetan Plateau

Climate elements	Statistic indices	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precipitation	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>2.380</b>	<b>2.922</b>	<b>5.829</b>	<b>7.553</b>	<b>10.284</b>	<b>15.212</b>	<b>15.708</b>	<b>13.595</b>	<b>12.115</b>	<b>6.207</b>	<b>3.439</b>	<b>1.719</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.736	0.767	0.775	0.888	0.912	0.906	0.898	0.901	0.896	0.919	0.867	0.714
	<i>MAE</i>	1.310	1.716	3.799	5.323	7.176	10.970	11.785	10.314	9.107	4.320	1.886	0.971
Average temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.242</b>	<b>1.163</b>	<b>1.132</b>	<b>0.976</b>	<b>0.936</b>	<b>0.933</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<b>0.784</b>	<b>0.857</b>	<b>0.918</b>	<b>1.049</b>	<b>1.172</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.936	0.948	0.939	0.961	0.944	0.942	0.956	0.963	0.954	0.946	0.951	0.922
	<i>MAE</i>	0.964	0.878	0.844	0.722	0.678	0.680	0.613	0.594	0.632	0.685	0.815	0.924
Maximum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.310</b>	<b>1.509</b>	<b>1.369</b>	<b>1.272</b>	<b>1.230</b>	<b>1.182</b>	<b>1.042</b>	<b>0.990</b>	<b>1.096</b>	<b>1.265</b>	<b>1.103</b>	<b>1.089</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.925	0.907	0.893	0.929	0.922	0.917	0.941	0.943	0.905	0.914	0.942	0.942
	<i>MAE</i>	0.921	1.069	1.006	0.949	0.829	0.816	0.746	0.738	0.810	0.896	0.799	0.813
Minimum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.853</b>	<b>1.566</b>	<b>1.256</b>	<b>1.062</b>	<b>0.966</b>	<b>0.963</b>	<b>0.929</b>	<b>0.961</b>	<b>0.893</b>	<b>1.119</b>	<b>1.469</b>	<b>1.799</b>
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.888	0.920	0.940	0.955	0.945	0.948	0.948	0.947	0.950	0.943	0.912	0.889
	<i>MAE</i>	1.459	1.202	0.979	0.840	0.759	0.740	0.734	0.752	0.667	0.875	1.181	1.422



Table 5. Tenfold cross-validation statistics for selected models based on independent weather stations in Temperate monsoonal region

Climate elements	Statistic indices	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precipitation	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.463</b>	<b>2.039</b>	<b>2.885</b>	<b>4.117</b>	<b>7.931</b>	<b>9.751</b>	<b>15.572</b>	<b>14.935</b>	<b>6.682</b>	<b>4.783</b>	<b>2.202</b>	<b>1.408</b>
	$R^2$	0.969	0.971	0.962	0.953	0.955	0.951	0.893	0.880	0.933	0.901	0.955	0.959
	<i>MAE</i>	0.892	1.146	1.787	2.389	4.040	5.975	10.965	10.151	4.599	2.918	1.459	0.845
Average temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>0.732</b>	<b>0.635</b>	<b>0.457</b>	<b>0.422</b>	<b>0.434</b>	<b>0.390</b>	<b>0.326</b>	<b>0.310</b>	<b>0.402</b>	<b>0.447</b>	<b>0.526</b>	<b>0.672</b>
	$R^2$	0.989	0.990	0.991	0.986	0.977	0.978	0.981	0.984	0.983	0.988	0.991	0.990
	<i>MAE</i>	0.506	0.439	0.331	0.313	0.320	0.270	0.230	0.236	0.303	0.327	0.396	0.481
Maximum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>0.452</b>	<b>0.451</b>	<b>0.434</b>	<b>0.452</b>	<b>0.449</b>	<b>0.431</b>	<b>0.402</b>	<b>0.335</b>	<b>0.291</b>	<b>0.273</b>	<b>0.345</b>	<b>0.436</b>
	$R^2$	0.995	0.994	0.992	0.982	0.970	0.972	0.962	0.972	0.989	0.995	0.996	0.995
	<i>MAE</i>	0.278	0.283	0.296	0.301	0.277	0.266	0.257	0.227	0.199	0.184	0.238	0.287
Minimum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>1.186</b>	<b>1.066</b>	<b>0.778</b>	<b>0.735</b>	<b>0.744</b>	<b>0.625</b>	<b>0.448</b>	<b>0.492</b>	<b>0.704</b>	<b>0.775</b>	<b>0.869</b>	<b>1.059</b>
	$R^2$	0.976	0.977	0.979	0.964	0.949	0.953	0.973	0.971	0.963	0.969	0.978	0.977
	<i>MAE</i>	0.832	0.748	0.600	0.557	0.563	0.458	0.322	0.366	0.522	0.572	0.648	0.762

Table 6. Tenfold cross-validation statistics for selected models based on independent weather stations in Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region

Climate elements	Statistic indices	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precipitation	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>8.999</b>	<b>9.143</b>	<b>9.990</b>	<b>11.514</b>	<b>17.116</b>	<b>26.410</b>	<b>28.207</b>	<b>28.459</b>	<b>22.054</b>	<b>17.894</b>	<b>12.174</b>	<b>9.004</b>
	$R^2$	0.908	0.946	0.970	0.968	0.935	0.873	0.735	0.795	0.864	0.873	0.857	0.861
	<i>MAE</i>	4.288	5.184	6.591	7.786	11.144	17.158	19.239	18.265	12.566	8.600	5.289	3.699
Average temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>0.597</b>	<b>0.632</b>	<b>0.617</b>	<b>0.530</b>	<b>0.437</b>	<b>0.369</b>	<b>0.368</b>	<b>0.355</b>	<b>0.401</b>	<b>0.474</b>	<b>0.514</b>	<b>0.566</b>
	$R^2$	0.978	0.971	0.967	0.965	0.968	0.976	0.982	0.984	0.979	0.976	0.976	0.977
	<i>MAE</i>	0.395	0.414	0.400	0.347	0.299	0.255	0.268	0.261	0.295	0.342	0.370	0.401
Maximum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>0.749</b>	<b>0.798</b>	<b>0.786</b>	<b>0.680</b>	<b>0.579</b>	<b>0.521</b>	<b>0.515</b>	<b>0.475</b>	<b>0.514</b>	<b>0.586</b>	<b>0.615</b>	<b>0.689</b>
	$R^2$	0.973	0.962	0.956	0.943	0.937	0.950	0.967	0.970	0.963	0.965	0.967	0.972
	<i>MAE</i>	0.458	0.499	0.490	0.430	0.368	0.334	0.345	0.315	0.345	0.371	0.401	0.439
Minimum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	<b>0.702</b>	<b>0.711</b>	<b>0.695</b>	<b>0.621</b>	<b>0.490</b>	<b>0.378</b>	<b>0.408</b>	<b>0.385</b>	<b>0.441</b>	<b>0.537</b>	<b>0.638</b>	<b>0.719</b>
	$R^2$	0.969	0.966	0.960	0.962	0.970	0.978	0.978	0.982	0.975	0.968	0.967	0.965
	<i>MAE</i>	0.476	0.476	0.463	0.422	0.356	0.284	0.308	0.292	0.339	0.410	0.474	0.515

#### 4.1.2 Comparison of ChinaClim\_baseline with WorldClim2 and CHELSA.

To better identify the performance of ChinaClim\_baseline, it was compared with two widely recognized baseline climatology surface with same spatial resolution: WorldClim2 (Fick et al., 2017) and CHELSA (Karger et al., 2017). The spatial differences and density scatter between ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 as well as CHELSA for annual total precipitation, annual average temperature, January minimum temperature, and July maximum temperature were shown in Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7 respectively.



There were some obvious spatial differences between ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 and CHELSA for annual total precipitation in the temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau (Figure 4a and 4b). The precipitation ratios of worldclime v2/ChinaClim\_baseline were less than 50% in most areas over temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau, and higher than 150% in Himalayas. WorldClim2 tended to be drier than ChinaClim\_baseline in many locations of temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau, but tended to be wetter in Himalayas. It is worth noting that the precipitation rate was obviously more than 150% for CHELSA in the west and south of high cold Tibetan plateau, while were less than 50% in the northeast of high cold Tibetan plateau and west of temperate continental region (Figure 4b). That is, CHELSA was pretty wetter than ChinaClim\_baseline in the west and south of high cold Tibetan plateau and much drier the northeast of high cold Tibetan plateau and west of temperate continental region than ChinaClim\_baseline. As shown in Figure 4c and 4d, the high correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 ( $r = 0.97$ ) and CHELSA ( $r = 0.92$ ) imply that our baseline climatology surface was trustworthy. The spatial consistency between ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 was higher, which may be because they used similar algorithms to generate baseline climatology surface.

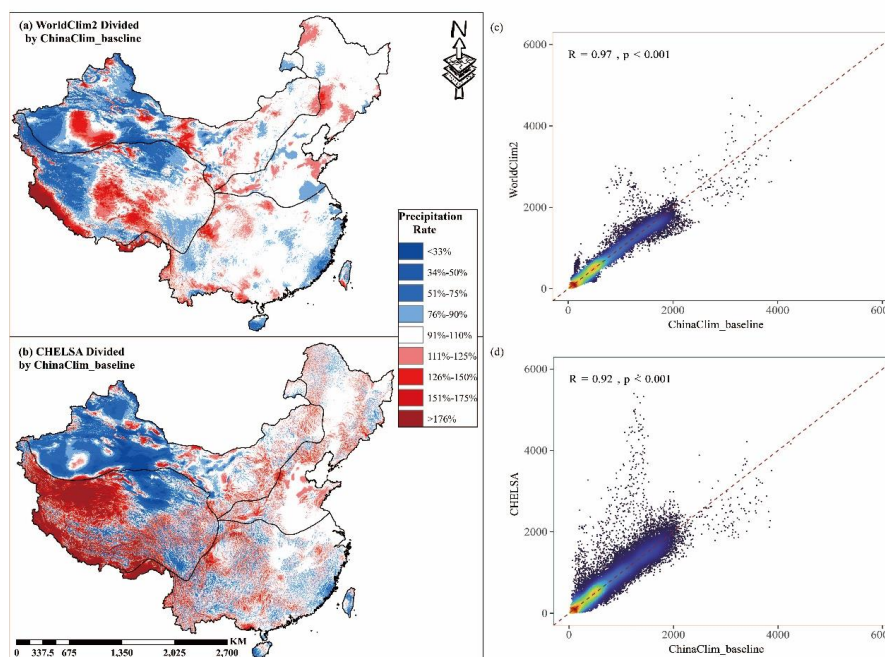


Figure 4. WorldClim2/ ChinaClim\_baseline and CHELSA/ ChinaClim\_baseline ratio maps (expressed as percentage) and density scatter plots of annual precipitation in China. The color of points represents the density of points, where the red points represent the highest density, and the blue points represent the lowest density. The black line is the 1:1 line.

For temperature elements (Figure 5, 6, and 7), the spatial consistent between ChinaClim\_baseline and WorldClim2 as well as CHELSA were very high (the lowest  $r$  was 0.98) and the spatial discrepancy were much smaller than precipitation as temperature generally follows relatively simple gradients along latitude and elevation. Similar to precipitation, only few areas in temperate





monsoonal region and subtropical-tropical monsoonal region had obvious spatial discrepancy (the areas where temperature different over  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and the spatial consistent was low in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau. Specifically, for annual average temperature, most areas showed small temperature different ( $< 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and WorldClim2 and CHELSA were slightly hotter (red) in those areas than ChinaClim\_baseline and only CHELSA in the west of high cold Tibetan plateau were colder. However, for July maximum temperature, WorldClim2 were obviously warmer than our baseline surface in the west of temperate continental region and the west of high cold Tibetan plateau, and were lower in the remaining areas. Most areas of CHELSA showed lower temperature than ChinaClim\_baseline, particularly in high cold Tibetan plateau with vast high-altitude areas. Compared to other temperature elements, the spatial pattern of January minimum temperature showed much more obvious differences among our baseline surface and WorldClim2 and CHELSA (Figure 7a and 7b), but the density scatter plot (Figure 7c and 7d) showed that the correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) were still as high as 0.99 and 0.98, respectively. Notably, obvious warmer temperature differences (red) can be captured in the eastern and southern parts of high cold Tibetan plateau both WorldClim2 and CHELSA. Furthermore, WorldClim2 in temperate continental region tended to be colder than ChinaClim\_baseline, while CHELSA showed a completely opposite spatial pattern.

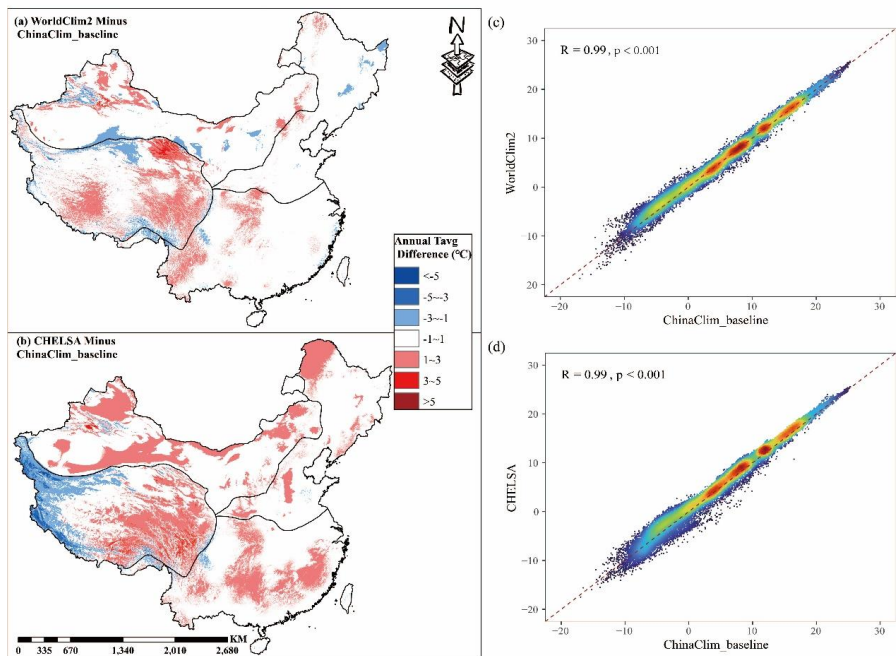


Figure 5. WorldClim2 - ChinaClim\_baseline and CHELSA - ChinaClim\_baseline difference maps and density scatter plots of annual average temperature in China. The color of points represents the density of points, where the red points represent the highest density, and the blue points represent the lowest density. The black line is the 1:1 line.

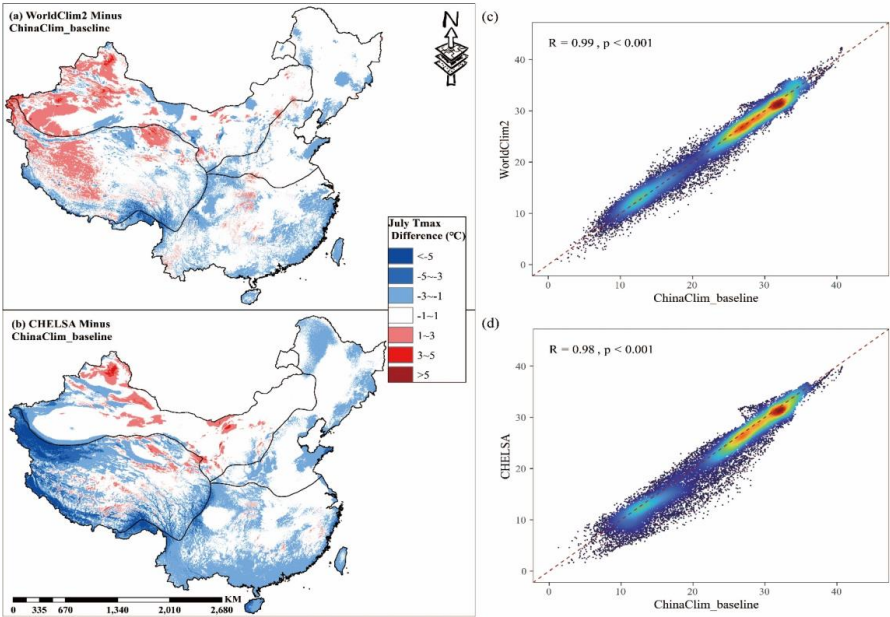


Figure 6. WorldClim2 - ChinaClim\_baseline and CHELSA - ChinaClim\_baseline difference maps and density scatter plots of July maximum temperature in China.

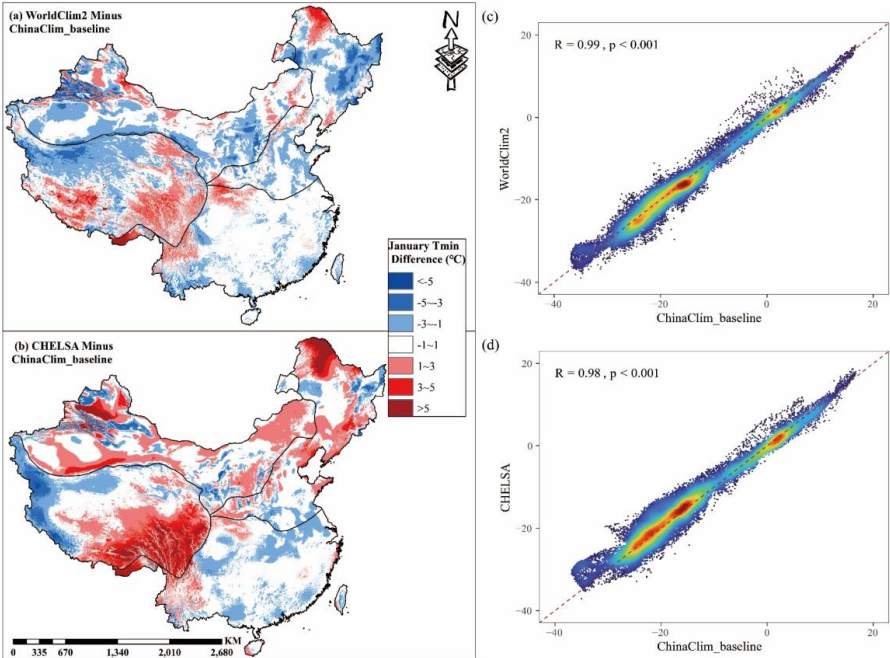


Figure 7. WorldClim2 - ChinaClim\_baseline and CHELSA - ChinaClim\_baseline difference maps and density scatter plots of January minimum temperature in China.



## 4.2 1km monthly precipitation and temperatures surfaces during 1952-2019 (ChinaClim\_time-series)

### 4.2.1 The optimal models and accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series

Our results showed that Model 7 ( $F(x,y,z)+cru\_r+base+coast / F(x,y,z)+cru\_a+base+coast$ ) had the lowest multi-year average (1952-2019) *RMSE* value in most months for precipitation and temperature elements (Table S7). Model 1 ( $F(x,y,z,base,coast)+cru\_r / F(x,y,z,base,coast)+cru\_a$ ) also had the lowest *RMSE* in some months such as in Feb for precipitation, during Dec-Mar for average temperature and during Nov-Mar for maximum temperature. Hence, we used Model 1 and Model 7 to generate monthly climate surface in corresponding months for precipitation estimation during 1952-1997 and temperature estimation during 1952-2000. For precipitation estimation during 1998-2019 and temperature estimation during 2001-2019, models considering TRMM3B43 ratio and LST anomaly (Model 7b and Model 1a) showed the lowest multi-year average *RMSE* value (Table S8).

As shown in Table 4, our results demonstrated that ChinaClim\_time-series showed excellent performance during 1952-2019. Precipitation had an average *RMSE* between 7.502 mm and 52.307mm, an average  $R^2$  of 0.755~0.919, and an average of *MAE* of 4.283~36.826 mm for all months. Compared with other months, the accuracy of precipitation was slightly poor from Jun to Aug. Average temperature had an average  $R^2$  of 0.991~0.995, an average *RMSE* between 0.461 °C and 0.731 °C, and an average *MAE* of 0.323~0.489 °C for all months. Maximum temperature had an average  $R^2$  of 0.984~0.994, an average *RMSE* between 0.535 °C and 0.714 °C, and an average *MAE* of 0.372 °C ~ 0.485 °C for all months. Minimum temperature had an average  $R^2$  of 0.989~0.993, an average *RMSE* between 0.547 °C and 0.939 °C, and an average *MAE* of 0.392~0.661 °C for all months. In a word, the accuracy of the average temperature was the best, followed by the maximum temperature and the minimum temperature.

Table 4. Tenfold cross-validation statistics for ChinaClim\_time-series.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precipitation	<i>RMSE</i>	7.502	10.532	15.880	24.740	36.320	48.040	52.307	49.240	35.437	25.543	13.866	7.746
	$R^2$	0.897	0.908	0.919	0.888	0.865	0.820	0.755	0.756	0.782	0.801	0.845	0.850
	<i>MAE</i>	4.291	5.881	9.259	15.153	22.794	31.973	36.826	34.298	23.442	14.191	7.839	4.283
Average temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	0.731	0.682	0.565	0.480	0.463	0.461	0.466	0.467	0.493	0.506	0.607	0.717
	$R^2$	0.995	0.994	0.994	0.993	0.992	0.991	0.991	0.991	0.992	0.994	0.995	0.995
	<i>MAE</i>	0.489	0.465	0.385	0.332	0.329	0.323	0.328	0.333	0.347	0.354	0.416	0.488
Maximum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	0.714	0.702	0.637	0.584	0.557	0.565	0.565	0.549	0.547	0.535	0.616	0.701
	$R^2$	0.994	0.993	0.991	0.988	0.985	0.984	0.984	0.986	0.987	0.991	0.994	0.994
	<i>MAE</i>	0.481	0.485	0.444	0.405	0.396	0.403	0.407	0.399	0.385	0.372	0.418	0.470
Minimum temperature	<i>RMSE</i>	0.939	0.887	0.752	0.630	0.604	0.578	0.547	0.578	0.628	0.678	0.797	0.923
	$R^2$	0.993	0.993	0.992	0.992	0.991	0.989	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.992	0.993	0.993
	<i>MAE</i>	0.661	0.633	0.539	0.459	0.441	0.411	0.392	0.413	0.453	0.495	0.573	0.655



#### 4.2.2 Comparison of ChinaClim\_time-series to other datasets

Here, we compared the accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series with Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts by  $RMSE$ ,  $R^2$  and  $MAE$  in China and four climatic regions (Temperate continental region, High cold Tibetan Plateau, Temperate monsoonal region and Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region). The independent weather stations extracted from a tenfold cross-validation approach were used to assess the performance of ChinaClim\_time-series, while only these weather stations with small deviations ( $< 200$  m) between the recorded and actual elevation (1 km DEM) were used to assess the accuracy of CHELSAcruts and Peng's climate surface (Tables 5-7). It is worth noting that these weather stations might not be independent weather station for validating CHELSAcruts and Peng's climate surface. Thus the accuracy of CHELSAcruts and Peng's climate surface may be overestimated in this study.

Table 5. The overall accuracy of total precipitation for ChinaClim\_time-series, Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in China and four climatic regions during 1952-2019

		$RMSE$	$R^2$	$MAE$
China	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>32.867</b>	<b>0.867</b>	<b>17.716</b>
	Peng's climate surface	39.707	0.805	21.290
	CHELSAcruts	40.015	0.809	21.560
Temperate continental region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>13.933</b>	<b>0.847</b>	<b>7.307</b>
	Peng's climate surface	16.575	0.791	8.881
	CHELSAcruts	15.043	0.832	7.892
High cold Tibetan Plateau	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>17.878</b>	<b>0.881</b>	<b>9.931</b>
	Peng's climate surface	31.625	0.714	16.201
	CHELSAcruts	34.228	0.696	18.000
Temperate monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>26.858</b>	<b>0.854</b>	<b>14.085</b>
	Peng's climate surface	29.151	0.817	15.496
	CHELSAcruts	28.819	0.831	15.375
Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>43.626</b>	<b>0.834</b>	<b>26.662</b>
	Peng's climate surface	52.426	0.758	31.612
	CHELSAcruts	52.950	0.760	32.364

The precipitation accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series showed better performance than Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in China and four climatic regions (Table 5) with the higher  $R^2$  (0.867), and the lower  $RMSE$  (32.867 mm) and  $MAE$  (17.716 mm). Comparing with Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts,  $R^2$  increased by 7.70 % and 7.17 %,  $RMSE$  decreased by 17.23 % and 17.86% and  $MAE$  decreased by 16.79% and 17.83 %, respectively. Specifically,  $RMSE$ ,  $R^2$  and  $MAE$  of ChinaClim\_time-series in temperate continental region were 13.933mm, 0.847 and 7.307mm, Respectively. The accuracy is higher than CHELSAcruts ( $RMSE$ : 15.043mm,  $R^2$ : 0.832 and  $MAE$ : 7.892mm), but much higher than Peng's climate surface ( $RMSE$ : 16.575mm,  $R^2$ : 0.791 and  $MAE$ : 8.881mm) in three surfaces. Remarkably, compared with Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in high cold Tibetan plateau,  $R^2$  of ChinaClim\_time-series for increased by 23.39 % and 26.59 %,  $RMSE$  decreased by 43.47 % and 47.77 % and  $MAE$  decreased by 38.70 % and 44.83 %, respectively. That is, ChinaClim\_time-series improved greatly



precipitation accuracy in those region with low-density weather station in comparison with the other time series climate datasets. The accuracy difference of different climate datasets in temperate monsoonal region was the lower than other three climatic regions, and the  $RMSE$ ,  $R^2$  and  $MAE$  of ChinaClim\_time-series was 26.858mm, 0.854 and 14.085mm, respectively. The accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series in subtropical-tropical monsoonal region were better obviously than Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts, and  $R^2$  increased by 10.03 % and 9.74 %,  $RMSE$  decreased by 16.79 % and 17.61 % and  $MAE$  decreased by 15.66 % and 17.62 %, respectively.

Table 6. The overall accuracy of maximum temperature for ChinaClim\_time-series, Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in China and four climatic regions during 1952-2019

	Maximum temperature	$RMSE$	$R^2$	$MAE$
China	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.629</b>	<b>0.997</b>	<b>0.412</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.299	0.988	0.974
	CHELSAcruts	1.443	0.987	1.097
Temperate continental region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.854</b>	<b>0.996</b>	<b>0.482</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.591	0.985	1.202
	CHELSAcruts	1.835	0.981	1.358
High cold Tibetan Plateau	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.676</b>	<b>0.993</b>	<b>0.473</b>
	Peng's climate surface	2.224	0.951	1.847
	CHELSAcruts	2.686	0.947	2.231
Temperate monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.483</b>	<b>0.999</b>	<b>0.352</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.090	0.993	0.847
	CHELSAcruts	1.225	0.993	0.962
Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.573</b>	<b>0.995</b>	<b>0.397</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.252	0.978	0.935
	CHELSAcruts	1.314	0.980	1.035

Table 7. The overall accuracy of minimum temperature for ChinaClim\_time-series, Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in China and four climatic regions during 1952-2019

	Minimum temperature	$RMSE$	$R^2$	$MAE$
China	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.742</b>	<b>0.996</b>	<b>0.501</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.422	0.988	1.074
	CHELSAcruts	1.523	0.987	1.125
Temperate continental region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>1.016</b>	<b>0.993</b>	<b>0.673</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.765	0.982	1.351
	CHELSAcruts	2.004	0.976	1.461
High cold Tibetan Plateau	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.856</b>	<b>0.992</b>	<b>0.584</b>
	Peng's climate surface	2.276	0.944	1.800
	CHELSAcruts	1.975	0.958	1.528
Temperate monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.727</b>	<b>0.997</b>	<b>0.521</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.324	0.991	1.032
	CHELSAcruts	1.585	0.989	1.196
Subtropical-tropical monsoonal region	ChinaClim_time-series	<b>0.543</b>	<b>0.995</b>	<b>0.386</b>
	Peng's climate surface	1.254	0.977	0.938
	CHELSAcruts	1.119	0.984	0.878



530 The temperature elements accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series also showed better performance than  
 531 Peng's climate surface and CHELSAcruts in China and all climatic regions (Tables 6 - 7). In whole  
 532 China, the *RMSE*,  $R^2$  and *MAE* of maximum temperature were 0.629 °C, 0.997 and 0.412 °C,  
 533 respectively; the *RMSE*,  $R^2$  and *MAE* of minimum temperature were 0.996, 0.742 °C and 0.501°C,  
 534 respectively. All  $R^2$  were very high among three datasets, but *RMSE* of ChinaClim\_time-series  
 535 decreased by 51.58 % (Peng's climate surface) and 56.41 % (CHELSAcruts) for maximum  
 536 temperature and by 47.82% (Peng's climate surface) and 51.28 % (CHELSAcruts) for minimum  
 537 temperature; *MAE* of ChinaClim\_time-series decreased by 57.70 % (Peng's climate surface) and  
 538 62.44 % (CHELSAcruts) for maximum temperature and by 53.35 % (Peng's climate surface) and  
 539 55.74 % (CHELSAcruts) for minimum temperature.

540 The accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series also was much better than Peng's climate surface and  
 541 CHELSAcruts, and the *RMSE* and *MAE* of ChinaClim\_time-series reduced by about 50% in all  
 542 climatic regions. Especially in high cold Tibetan plateau, the accuracy of the maximum and  
 543 minimum temperature of ChinaClim\_time-series were 0.676 °C and 0.856 °C for *RMSE*, 0.993 and  
 544 0.992 for  $R^2$ , and 0.473 °C and 0.584 °C for *MAE*, respectively; Compared with Peng's climate  
 545 surface and CHELSAcruts, *RMSE* decreased by 69.60 % and 74.83% for maximum temperature  
 546 and by 62.39 % and 56.66 % for minimum temperature, respectively; *MAE* decreased by 74.39 %  
 547 and 78.80 % for maximum temperature and by 67.56 % and 61.78 % for minimum temperature,  
 548 respectively.

#### 549 4.2.3 The effectiveness of satellite-driven TRMM3B43 and LST

550 Our results have shown that models considering satellite-driven data (Table S7: Model **7b** and  
 551 Model **1a**) were the best models during the periods for precipitation during 1998-2019 and for  
 552 temperature elements during 2001-2019. Here, the effectiveness of satellite-driven data for  
 553 improving precipitation and temperature estimation was evaluated again because simple multi-year  
 554 monthly average model was difficult to quantify the influences of satellite-driven data. We  
 555 investigated the accuracy of precipitation and three temperature elements with satellite-driven data  
 556 and without satellite-driven data by *RMSE*,  $R^2$  and *MAE* from density scatter plots in China (Figures  
 557 8-11) and four climatic regions (Figures S1-S4).

558  
 559



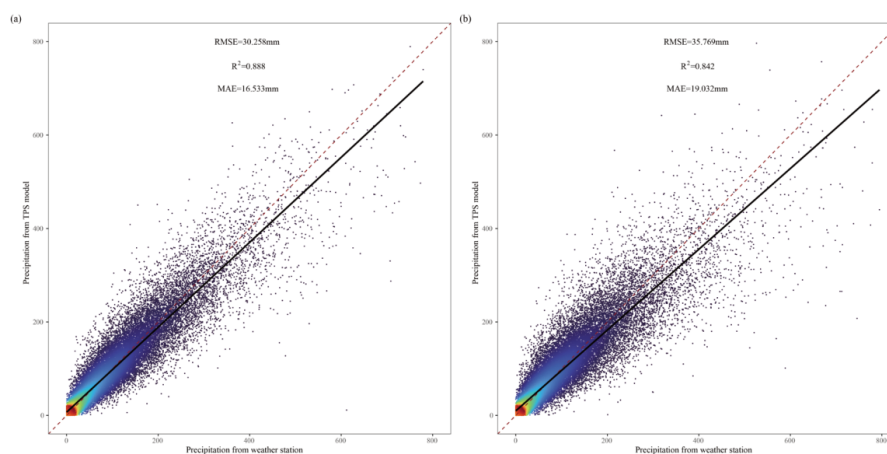


Figure 8 Density scatter plots of precipitation with satellite-driven TRMM3B43 and (b) without satellite-driven TRMM3B43 in China.

As shown in Figure 8, after considering the satellite-driven TRMM3B43, the overall  $RMSE$ ,  $R^2$  and  $MAE$  in China were 30.258mm, 0.888 and 16.533mm, but  $RMSE$ ,  $R^2$  and  $MAE$  of the model without considering the satellite-driven TRMM3B43 were 35.769mm, 0.842, and 19.032mm, respectively. Furthermore, we investigated the differences for the overall accuracy of precipitation estimation in the four climatic regions before and after adding satellite-driven TRMM3B43 (Figure S1). The results showed that  $RMSE$  in temperate continental region reduced from 14.798mm to 12.720mm after considering satellite-driven TRMM3B43;  $RMSE$  in high cold Tibetan plateau also reduced by about 2mm, from 19.831mm to 17.336mm;  $RMSE$  in temperate monsoonal region was 24.890mm, and decreased by 10.91 %; particularly,  $RMSE$  in subtropical-tropical monsoonal region reduced from 48.271mm to 40.114mm, and the reduction of  $RMSE$  was as high as 16.70%. In short, adding satellite-driven TRMM3B43 to TPS model can improve obviously the accuracy of precipitation estimation, whether in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau with low-density weather stations or in temperate monsoonal region and subtropical-tropical monsoonal region with huge precipitation variation.



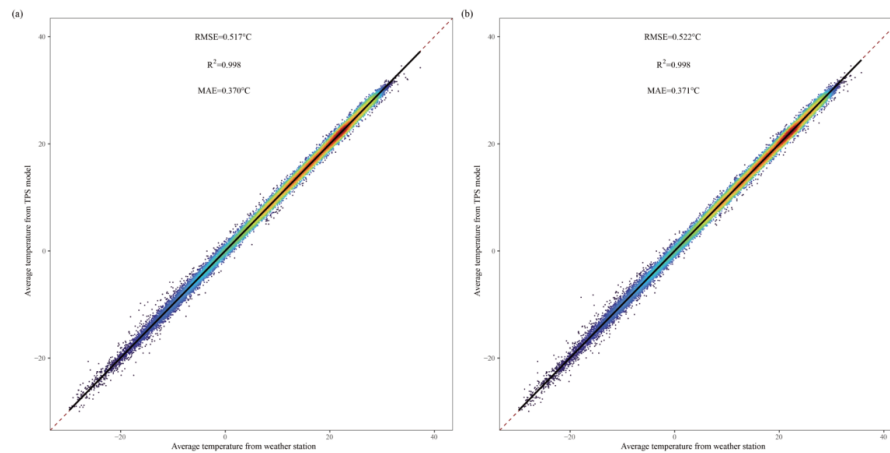


Figure 9 Density scatter plots of average temperature (a) with satellite-driven LST and (b) without satellite-driven LST in China.

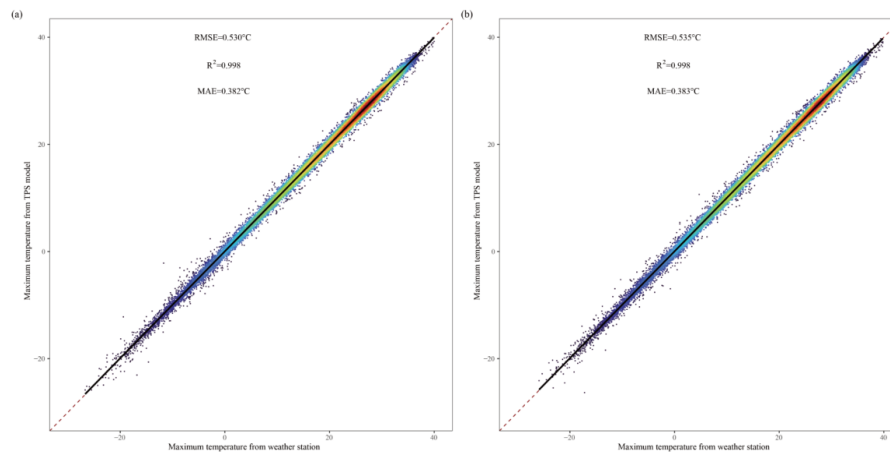


Figure 10 Density scatter plots of maximum temperature (a) with satellite-driven LST and (b) without satellite-driven LST in China.

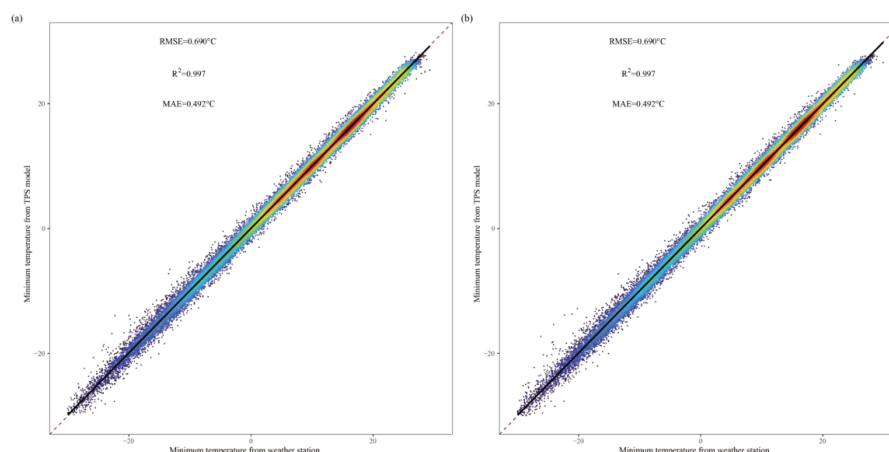


Figure 11 Density scatter plots of minimum temperature (a) with satellite-driven LST and (b) without satellite-driven LST in China.

Our results (Figures 9-11) showed that the accuracy of the temperature elements were improved slightly in China after considering satellite-driven LST. Among them, *RMSE* of the average temperature reduced from 0.522 to 0.517, and *RMSE* of the maximum temperature reduced from 0.535 to 0.530, the average *RMSE* remained unchanged. Moreover, the accuracy of temperature elements estimation in various climatic regions were not as obvious as precipitation estimation when adding satellite-driven data to the TPS model (Figures S2-S4). We inferred that temperature variation usually tends to change simply with altitude gradients, and adding CRU temperature data to the TPS model may affect the role of satellite-driven LST to the estimate of temperature elements. That is, the improvement of the accuracy of adding satellite-driven LST to TPS model for temperature elements estimation will be limited when models were able to fit the regression relationship between temperature and related variables well.

## 5 Data availability

ChinaClim\_baseline is a brand-new and high-quality baseline climatology surface for China at spatial resolution of 1km. The data now is freely available through Zenodo at 10.5281/zenodo.5900743 (Gong, 2020a), which can be downloaded in NC format. The scale factor of precipitation and temperature are 0.01 and 0.1, respectively.

ChinaClim\_time-series is a monthly temperatures and precipitation dataset in China for the period of 1952-2019 of 1km spatial resolution. The data now are freely available through Zenodo at 10.5281/zenodo.5919442 (Gong, 2020b), 10.5281/zenodo.5919423 (Gong, 2020c), 10.5281/zenodo.5919448 (Gong, 2020d), and 10.5281/zenodo.5919450 (Gong, 2020e) which can be downloaded in Geotiff format. The scale factor of the data is 0.1.



## 612 6 Discussion

613 The high-quality climate dataset could play pivotal role in studying climate change and its effect on  
 614 the processes and functioning of the ecosystem (Ordonez and Williams., 2013; Pinsky et al., 2013).  
 615 However, it is difficult and expensive to build a time-series weather stations with high-density  
 616 distribution network. It has been noted that more than 2000 weather stations could be freely used to  
 617 generate baseline climatology surface, then our study created a brand-new and high-quality baseline  
 618 climatology surface (ChinaClim\_baseline) based on those weather stations (Dataset of 30-year  
 619 average climate), and which were used as input to the climatologically aided interpolation (CAI),  
 620 combined with available time-series weather stations, CRU datasets, and satellite-driven data to  
 621 construct a time-series climate dataset (ChinaClim\_time-series) with lower uncertainty.  
 622 There are a number of baseline climatology surface products for global land surface (Hijmans et al.,  
 623 2005; Karger et al., 2017; New et al., 1999; New et al., 2002; Fick et al., 2017), while few weather  
 624 stations from China were employed to generate these surfaces, which might result in insufficient  
 625 accuracy of these surfaces in China, and further affect the accuracy of long-term climate datasets  
 626 with these surfaces as input, especially in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau  
 627 where weather stations were sparse. In this study, ChinaClim\_baseline could greatly reduce the  
 628 uncertainty of climatic elements interpolation in remote areas owing to the high-density distribution  
 629 of weather stations. As our results showed that, the estimation of ChinaClim\_baseline performed  
 630 well in all months for four climatic regions and the *RMSEs* of precipitation and temperature elements  
 631 estimation being 1.276 ~28.439 mm. and 0.310 ~ 2.040 °C, respectively. ChinaClim\_baseline, as a  
 632 brand-new baseline climatology surface currently released for China, was highly consistent with  
 633 WorldClim2 and CHELSA (high *r*). However, ChinaClim\_baseline also showed clearly spatial  
 634 differences with WorldClim2 and CHELSA over China, especially in low-density weather station  
 635 regions such as high cold Tibetan Plateau and temperate continental region. WorldClim2 tended to  
 636 be drier than ChinaClim\_baseline in many locations of temperate continental region and high cold  
 637 Tibetan plateau, which may overestimate the drought risk when being applied for assessing the  
 638 influence of climate changes in these areas. CHELSA simply used temperature lapse rates to  
 639 estimate temperatures, which might product mistakenly temperatures estimation in the absence of  
 640 sufficient weather stations correction in high-altitude regions. Although WorldClim2 considered  
 641 satellite-driven LST and cloud cover, it did not optimized the fitting model of climate elements in  
 642 each months (Hijmans et al., 2005; Fick et al., 2017), which might impact the accuracy of key  
 643 months and cannot correctly reveal the seasonal variation of climate elements well and mislead the  
 644 vegetation-climate relationship. Previous study demonstrated that local context and seasons changes  
 645 has significant influence on climate processes (Brunsdon et al., 2001; Fick et al., 2017), thus the  
 646 model for fitting baseline climatology surface should vary from various climatic regions and  
 647 different months to improve the data accuracy. ChinaClim\_baseline was created by the optimal TPS  
 648 model for each climatic region and different months. This adaptive method allowed for better model  
 649 fits in remote regions and specific months. Moreover, ChinaClim\_baseline used not only much more  
 650 weather stations, but also the spatially continuous satellite-driven TRMM3B43 which can  
 651 distinguish the rain shadow effect of mountains (Deblauwe et al., 2016) and provide enough  
 652 information in sparse areas of weather stations.  
 653 Therefore, our high-quality baseline climatology surface should better reduce the uncertainty and



reflect the actual climate conditions over China than currently existing baseline climatology surface, especially in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau with sparse weather station during growing season. Besides, a good baseline climatology surface, not only could be applied in modelling history and paleo climate changes, but also can be combined with GCM products to predicting future climate change scenarios with high resolution (Peng et al., 2019; Platts et al., 2015). ChinaClim\_baseline can be used to construction of more accurate bioclimatic indicators at ~1 km spatial resolution for China. Bioclimatic variables, representing annual trends, seasonality and extreme or limiting environmental factors, are much more biologically meaningful (Hijmans et al., 2005), they are more suitable for examining the vegetation-climate relationship (Liu et al., 2020; Marchi et al., 2019; Vega et al., 2017).

A variety of studies have developed many superior long-term climate data products with high resolution, such as CHELSAcruts and Peng's climate surface. They simply relied on coarse CRU anomaly and baseline climatology surfaces (WorldClim2 and CHELSA) (Karger et al., 2017; Peng et al., 2019), which may lead to huge uncertainty. In this study, ChinaClim\_baseline as input in CAI reduced the uncertainty of output (ChinaClim\_time-series). Simultaneously, we interpolated climatic elements anomaly (ratio) based on the optimal monthly TPS model, which can not only make full use of time-series weather stations, but also consider the satellites-driven data (TRMM 3B43 ratio and LST anomaly) and CRU data as either independent spline variables or linear covariates to further improve the accuracy of the final monthly climate surface. As our results showed that compared with these two climate data products, ChinaClim\_time-series increased the accuracy (*RMSE*) by more than 15% and 50% for precipitation and temperature elements, respectively, especially in temperate continental region and high cold Tibetan plateau. Previous study demonstrated that satellite-driven data can effectively improve the accuracy of climatic elements interpolation. Our results showed that the utilization of satellite-driven TRMM3B43 ratio in TPS interpolation improved the precipitation estimation of ChinaClim\_time-series, but satellite-driven LST anomaly did not significantly improve the estimates of time-series temperature elements. Incorporating satellite-driven LST into spline interpolation induced diminishing returns owing to increasing the number of predictor variables, and strong correlations between temperature variables and CRU predictors may be contributing to this result. Besides, since CRU data could provide long-time series climatic element information, it plays an irreplaceable role for the reconstruction of long-time series climatic element. In particular, for the estimation of temperature elements, CRU data can play the role of LST data to a certain extent, which will provide us with important guiding significance for downscaling or spatial interpolation of time-series climatic elements. That is, a high-quality baseline climatology surface based on high-density weather stations could improve the estimates of time-series climate elements, while satellite-driven data is more helpful to improve the accuracy of precipitation estimates and produce very little effect in improving the accuracy of temperatures estimation. Hence, ChinaClim\_time-series, a very high-quality time-series climate elements datasets over China, can reveal successfully the spatial-temporal change patterns of precipitation and temperatures. At the same time, considering 68 years' span, it can be used to more accurately assess the prolonged effects of climate changes on eco-environment.

The TRMM3B43 improves the estimate of precipitation, while the 0.25-degree spatial resolution of TRMM might be fail to represent many important finer-scale climatic features (Deblauwe et al., 2016) due to the uncertainties caused by downscaling from 0.25 degree to 1km using Cubist algorithm although this algorithm was recommended for exploring downscaling of satellite-based



data (Ma et al., 2018). It should also be noted that there is a temporal mismatch between the datasets from weather stations (1981–2010) and from average TRMM3B43 (1998–2019) in estimating ChinaClim\_baseline. Therefore, incorporating TRMM3B43 into the generation of ChinaClim\_baseline and ChinaClim\_time-series may exist challenges (Deblauwe et al., 2016). Similarly, the 0.5-degree spatial resolution of CRU datasets was interpolated into 1km also caused uncertainties and impact the accuracy of ChinaClim\_time-series. With the emergence of more climate-related remote sensing products at high-resolution in the future, and the improvement of multiple-source remote sensing data fusion technology, the uncertainty of climate interpolation were greatly reduced and the accuracy of product estimation will be improved, particularly in places with very few weather stations or strong gradients change or complex terrain (Immerzeel et al., 2009; Li and Shao, 2010; Fick et al., 2017; Vega et al 2017). Although our research showed that TPS method could be used well in climate interpolation, this method accounted for direct elevation effects only, and had difficulty in considering the sharp changes in the relationship between climate and elevation (Daly et al., 2008; Daly et al., 2007; Marchi et al., 2019). Therefore, it is essential to comprehensively quantify the non-linear relationship between environmental variables and climate elements, and more deeply understand the impact of the interaction among environmental variables on climate elements. It is urgently needed in future work to couple the nonlinear relationship and variables interactions in climate elements interpolation with TPS or new algorithm for the better climate elements estimations.

**Author Contributions.** Haibo Gong formed the original idea and wrote the original manuscript; Huiyu Liu offered valuable comments and was responsible for the manuscript revisions; Xueqiao Xiang participated in the data collection and analysis; FuSheng Jiao and Xiaojuan Xu created figures and tables.

**Competing interests.** The author declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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